

Serial No.: 09/945,235

Attorney's Docket No.:10559/456001/P10867

REMARKSStatus of Claims:

Claims 1-37 are currently pending, with claims 1, 12, 23, and 34 being independent. Claims 34-37 have been cancelled by this response without prejudice. Claims 1-7, 9-10, 12-18, 20-21, 23, and 32 have been amended. New claims 38-46 have been added, with claims 38 and 42 being independent. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested.

Objections to the Title and the Abstract:

The original title is appropriately descriptive, but the title has nonetheless been amended to make its descriptive nature more clear.

The Abstract stands objected to. Please cancel the current Abstract and replace it with the new Abstract presented above on page 3 of this response.

Additionally, the specification has been reviewed as requested, but no errors have been discovered during this review. In view of these amendments and remarks, withdrawal of the objections to the title and the abstract are respectfully requested.

Rejection of the Claims:

Claims 1-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Nessett et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,055,236). This contention is respectfully traversed.

Nessett is directed to methods and systems for locating network services with distributed network address translation. "Digital certificates are created that allow an external network device on an external network, such as the Internet, to request

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a service from an internal network device on an internal distributed network address translation network, such as a stub local area network." (See the Nessett Abstract.) In contrast, the present claims are completely different.

The claims have been amended to more clearly articulate their patentable distinctions. Independent claims 1 and 12 are amended to recite, "storing at least some of the content at a network interface mechanism that is capable of independently responding to a client request and that is accessible by the first mechanism, wherein the network interface mechanism provides a physical interface between a network and the first mechanism". Independent claim 23 recites, "a network interface device configured to communicate with the server, to store at least some of the content of the web page, and to independently provide at least some of the content stored at the interface in response to a request sent to the server for web content." The art of record fails to teach or suggest storing web content at a network interface mechanism or device, which can independently provide such web content in response to a request.

In particular, the portion of Nessett cited for this limitation of the independent claims (col. 7, line 7 to col. 8, line 7) discloses nothing at all about the construction or functionality of the network interface devices used to connect the various computer systems with the various networks. Moreover, the only time that web content is even mentioned in Nessett is in reference to the availability of the IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers) standards on the World Wide Web.

Nessett refers to a network interface card (NIC) is at col. 9, lines 19-23, and the functionality of the NIC is described from col. 15, line 41 to col. 20, line 67. This section of Nessett makes clear that the functionality of the NIC involves

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network address translation and port translation. There is no suggestion that the NIC is capable of storing web content or is capable of independently providing web content in response to a client request.

Thus, independent claims 1, 12, and 23 should be patentable over the art of record. Dependent claims 2-11, 13-22, and 24-33 are patentable based on the above reasons and on their own merits.

For example, with respect to claims 4, 15, and 26, the suggestion in the official action that network address translation schemes can somehow anticipate mapping a network address to a particular set of content (e.g., mapping a universal resource locator to a particular web page) is strenuously objected to. As is well understood in the art, and as specifically described in the background section of Nessett, network address translation involves translating internal network addresses to external network addresses and translating external network addresses to internal network addresses. (See Nessett at col. 8, lines 30-37.) Thus, Nessett's translation is from address to address, not address to content. Given the manner in which the terms "address" and "content" are used in the present specification, it is inappropriate to suggest that one of skill in the art would equate an "address" with "content", as these terms are used in the claims.

Similarly with regard to the other dependent claims, the official action appears to be extending the teaching of Nessett well beyond what one of skill in the art would understand from reading the reference.

Claims 34-37 have been cancelled without prejudice.

New claims 38-46 have been added. With respect to new independent claims 38 and 42, the art of record fails to teach or suggest a network interface device that includes a physical

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interface configured to interconnect a network and a web server, a rapid storage mechanism configured to store web content frequently provided by the web server in response to client requests, and a network stack configured to provide the web content stored in the rapid storage mechanism in response to a request sent to the web server. Thus, independent claims 38 and 42 should be patentable over the art of record. Dependent claims 39-41 and 43-46 are patentable based on the above reasons and on their own merits.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that issue or comment. Because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

It is respectfully suggested for all of these reasons, that the current rejection is totally overcome; that none of the cited art teaches or suggests the features which are now claimed, and therefore that all of these claims should be in condition for allowance. A formal notice of allowance is thus respectfully requested.

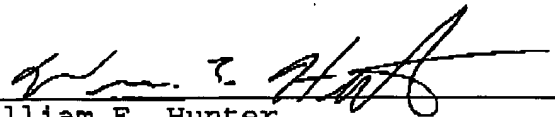
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Please apply \$178.00 for excess claim fees, \$110.00 for the one month extension fee and any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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